

Administration of Barack Obama, 2012

Statement on the First Anniversary of the Repeal of the Department of Defense's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy

September 20, 2012

A year ago today, we upheld the fundamental American values of fairness and equality by finally and formally repealing "don't ask, don't tell." Gay and lesbian Americans now no longer need to hide who they love in order to serve the country they love. It is a testament to the professionalism of our men and women in uniform that this change was implemented in an orderly manner, preserving unit cohesion, recruitment, retention, and military effectiveness.

As Commander in Chief, I've seen that our national security has been strengthened because we are no longer denied the skills and talents of those patriotic Americans who happen to be gay or lesbian. The ability of servicemembers to be open and honest about their families and the people they love honors the integrity of the individuals who serve, strengthens the institutions they serve, and is one of the many reasons why our military remains the finest in the world.

Categories: Statements by the President : Department of Defense's "don't ask, don't tell" policy," first anniversary of repeal.

Subjects: Armed Forces, U.S. : "Don't ask, don't tell" policy, repeal.

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